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# United States Department of Agriculture

(AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS)

## SERVICE AND REGULATORY ANNOUNCEMENTS NO. 117

### PROCEEDINGS OF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSAL COTTON STANDARDS CONFERENCE OF 1929 AND ITEMS RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES COTTON FUTURES AND COTTON STANDARDS ACTS

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#### INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSAL COTTON STANDARDS CONFERENCE OF 1929

The regular biennial Universal Cotton Standards Conference provided for in the agreements between the United States Department of Agriculture and nine cotton exchanges and associations of Europe was held in Washington, D. C., in March, 1929.<sup>1</sup>

These biennial meetings are for the purpose of approving copies of the universal standards for American cotton, for use by the department and by the European organizations during the 2-year period beginning August 1 next following each such meeting. At the 1929 meeting, 65 full sets of copies of the standards—a total of 1,300 boxes—were approved, and various matters were discussed.

<sup>1</sup>The principal agreement and Supplemental Agreement A, both relating to the Universal Standards for American Cotton, will be found in Service and Regulatory Announcements No. 92 (Agricultural Economics), pp. 17–20.



The following communications preliminary to the conference may be of interest to various branches of the cotton industry:

(Addressed to the European associations)

JANUARY 4, 1929.

DEAR SIRs: This will confirm our recent cablegram sent through Agricultural Commissioner Foley, concerning the conference to be held here in March under the provisions of Supplemental Agreement A to the Universal Standards Agreements. As indicated in the cablegram, transportation will be furnished by this department on vessels of the United States Lines, and as the *Leviathan*, which we assume most of the delegates will desire to use, is not scheduled to reach New York until March 15, the conference will be adjourned until March 16, awaiting the arrival of the delegates who come on that ship.

Attention is invited to the provision of the agreement by which your association is entitled to receive three complete sets of the standards gratis, and to purchase additional approved sets by applying in writing in advance of the meeting. In order that a sufficient number of sets may be available for consideration in the conference, it is asked that you cable as promptly as possible upon receipt of this letter information as to the number of additional sets, if any, desired. In any event, 60 copies of the standards will be prepared for presentation to the conference, as was done in 1927.

A separate letter is being addressed to your association and to the other signatory associations relative to a meeting under paragraph 3 of the Principal Agreement, to be held at or about the time of the Universal Standards Conference in March.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

NILS A. OLSEN,  
Chief of Bureau.

JANUARY 22, 1929.

DEAR SIRs: The Universal Standards for American upland cotton embrace, as you know, 32 grades, of which 20 grades—namely, those for white, yellow-tinged, yellow-stained, and blue-stained cotton—are represented in practical forms, or boxes, and 12 grades—namely, those for spotted, light-stained, and gray cottons—are descriptive. The descriptive grades are, with the exception of Strict Good Middling Yellow Tinged, defined by the boxes for the next lighter and next deeper colors of the same grade, and embrace the entire range of color between the two such boxes.

Expressing a belief that the usefulness of the standards for spotted cottons would be enhanced if they could be represented by practical forms, cotton-trade organizations and interested individuals in this country and Europe have requested that boxes be issued by this department to represent these standards. It has also been proposed that a standard grade description be set up between Spotted and Yellow Tinged to be known as "Light Tinged."

Requests have also been made of this department for some new provision in the Universal Standards for illustrating in practical form the preparation of long-staple cotton.

The order of business of the conference to be held here in March, 1929, is prescribed in Supplemental Agreement A. However, to provide for a discussion of the proposals which the department has received, we wish to give notice of a separate meeting to be held under paragraph 3 of the Principal Agreement, at or about the conclusion of the Universal Standards Conference, the exact time to be agreed upon with the delegates sent by the various associations. The following will be presented for consideration:

(1) A proposal to set up standard boxes of the grades Good Middling Spotted, Strict Middling Spotted, Middling Spotted, Strict Low Middling Spotted, and Low Middling Spotted, or any of them. Tentative boxes will be available as a basis for discussion.

(2) A proposal to set up standard grade descriptions between spotted cottons of the grades Good Middling to Low Middling and Yellow Tinged of the same grades, such proposed new grades to be known as Good Middling Light Yellow Tinged, Strict Middling Light Yellow Tinged, Middling Light Yellow Tinged, Strict Low Middling Light Yellow Tinged, and Low Middling Light Yellow Tinged.

(3) A proposal that types be prepared illustrating the preparation of long-staple cotton. A tentative box will be available to illustrate the range of preparation of staple cotton of the grades Strict Middling, Middling, and Strict Low Middling.

It is requested that delegates be authorized to represent your association at this meeting.

It will be recalled that before the conference of 1927, the chief of the bureau advised the European associations that formal notification had been received of the desire of the Japan Cotton Spinners' Association and the Japan Cotton Merchants' Union to be included as parties to the Universal Standards Agreements, and that it was the view of the Secretary of Agriculture that the Japanese associations should be welcomed and encouraged to participate.

Following the discussions with the delegates to the last conference, and subsequent correspondence, this department was informed by the respective European associations during the summer of 1927 that, while they had no objection to Japanese representatives being present during the passing of the copies of the Universal Standards at Washington, they felt that it would not be feasible or practicable for the Japanese associations to become parties to the agreements between the Department of Agriculture and the European associations.

The Japanese organizations referred to have accordingly been invited to have representatives present at the conference in March of this year as guests of this department to witness the passing of copies of the Universal Standards. The department has been advised through official channels that this invitation has been accepted, and it is now expected that Japanese representatives will be present.

This leads the department to renew expression of its feeling that the Japanese associations should in equity be admitted to full participation in all conferences held under the regular agreements and to express the hope that the matter may receive reconsideration at the hands of your association. The department would be gratified if your association and the other signatory associations, to whom identical letters are being addressed, would prepare their delegates to consider at this meeting, in addition to the subjects enumerated above, such steps as may be needful and desirable to accomplish this end.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) NILS A. OLSEN,  
Chief of Bureau.

*(Addressed to various organizations of cotton growers, merchants, and manufacturers in America)*

FEBRUARY 6, 1929.

GENTLEMEN: Under certain agreements between this department and various cotton associations of Europe relating to the Universal Standards for American cotton, the next biennial meeting to approve key sets of copies of the standards will convene on Monday, March 11, 1929, at 10 o'clock, in room 411 of the Bieber Building, 1358 B Street SW., Washington, D. C. Since a number of the European delegates will not reach New York until March 15, and since these and other delegates have agreed to a few days' postponement, it will be necessary to adjourn the regular biennial conference to 10 o'clock, Saturday, March 16, 1929.

The Department of Agriculture will, as heretofore, represent the American interest in this conference. Following its custom of previous years, the department will also advise at the same time with representatives of American growers, merchants, and spinners, and will be pleased to have your association represented.

Owing to the limited space available for the work of approving the practical forms of the Universal Standards and to the consequent necessity of holding the group down to a reasonable working number, it is hoped that you can limit your representation to one expert to participate in that phase of the conference, though others could well take part in the discussions outside of the standards laboratory. It may be added that representatives of the Japan Cotton Spinners' Association and the Japan Cotton Merchants' Union will be present on this occasion as guests of the department, and will witness the work of examination and approval of the practical forms of the standards.

In order that sufficient time may be allowed for certain discussions preliminary to the regular biennial conference and for the consideration of certain matters which will not form a part of the deliberations of the biennial



conference itself, it is deemed desirable to request that the representatives of the American associations report in Washington on Thursday, March 14.

The following program has been scheduled subject, of course, to the possibility of slight modification later on as conditions may indicate:

*Thursday, March 14, at 1.30 p. m., meeting at room 411,  
1358 B Street SW., Washington, D. C.*

Adjournment to cotton standards laboratory, 300 Linworth Place SW.

1. Consideration of a proposed revision of the official standards for American Egyptian cotton. Tentative boxes will be available as a basis for discussion. The necessity for a revision has been urged upon the department on the ground that physiological changes in recent crops have tended to make the present American Egyptian standards obsolete.

2. The examination and consideration of proposed key sets of copies of the standards for Extra White cotton.

*Friday, March 15, at 10 a. m.*

1. Continuation of the examination of Extra White standards.

2. Consideration of a proposal to set up standard boxes to represent the grades Good Middling Spotted to Low Middling Spotted, inclusive. Tentative boxes will be available.

3. Consideration of a proposal to set up standard grade descriptions between spotted cottons of the grades Good Middling to Low Middling, inclusive, and Yellow Tinged of the same grades, such proposed new grades to be known as Good Middling Light Yellow Tinged to Low Middling Light Yellow Tinged, inclusive.

4. Consideration of proposal that types be prepared illustrating the preparation of long-staple cotton of the grades Strict Middling, Middling, and Strict Low Middling. A tentative box illustrating the range of preparation of these three grades will be available.

*Saturday, March 16, at 10 a. m., at room 411, 1358 B Street SW.*

Opening of International Conference.

*Monday, March 18, at the Cotton Standards Laboratory, 300 Linworth Place SW.*

Examination and approval of copies of the Universal Standards, continuing until completion of the work.

A meeting will be held under the principal Universal Standards Agreement at such time as may be found to be convenient, for a consideration with representatives of the delegates from abroad of the above-mentioned proposals relative to standard boxes for spotted cotton; of standard grade descriptions for Light Yellow Tinged; of standards illustrating the preparation of long-staple cotton; and of the proposal first considered in the conference of 1927, to include the Japan Cotton Spinners' Association and the Japan Cotton Merchants' Union as parties to the Universal Standards Agreements.

In the event it is found convenient for your association to accept, an early communication advising the name of your representative will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

NILS A. OLSEN,  
Chief of Bureau.

The following are excerpts from the remarks of Nils A. Olsen, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, during the meetings with the representatives of the American organizations:

As you know, we are coming together at this time in connection with the biennial cotton conference which takes place under the terms of the Universal Standards Agreements. The opening meeting of the conference is called for 10 o'clock next Saturday. As is our practice, we like to have with us representatives of the cotton industry generally, in order that we may confer with them on matters of mutual interest. It is for that reason that we sent you a short time ago a letter in which we told about the conference and asked if you would not arrange to be with us a few days in advance. \* \* \* The purpose of that request was that we might have this opportunity of discussing with you certain matters which will come up before the biennial conference and certain other matters in which we know the industry is interested.

In order to bring before you again the matters on which we shall confer this afternoon, I am going to read to you a statement of the questions we should like to consider with you in advance of the first session. \* \* \* The first two points to which I will

make reference are matters which concern only the American members. \* \* \* The other matters will come before the general conference, but naturally we like to have the cooperation of the American industry, their counsel and information, before we go into the larger group.

1. Consideration of a proposed revision of the official standards for American Egyptian cotton. Tentative boxes will be available as a basis for discussion. The necessity for a revision has been urged upon the department on the ground that physiological changes in recent crops have tended to make the present American Egyptian standards obsolete.

2. The examination and consideration of proposed key sets of copies of the standards for Extra White cotton.

Those are the two points we regard as concerning the American industry and ourselves. \* \* \*

Now, in the communication that went forward to the associations, we stated that a number of proposals would be submitted for consideration under the principal agreement. As you know, under the principal agreement, the decision on matters that come up will be \* \* \* between the European associations and the United States. The United States Department of Agriculture has its obligations to meet under the cotton standards act in connection with these standards, and it was arranged that it was to make the decision on behalf of the United States. In making that decision, the Department of Agriculture, following its usual procedure, desires, of course, to have the reaction of the American associations and to work in harmony with, and in keeping with, their ideas on matters in so far as practicable. That is the purpose of having this little conference this morning in advance of the meeting that will be held very shortly with the European delegates. I should like to restate or read to you the proposals which were submitted in that communication to which I referred, and which will go before the general conference. \* \* \* [At this point Mr. Olsen read the proposals outlined in the above-quoted communications, concerning (1) Suggested standard boxes illustrating the grades of spotted cotton; (2) Suggested standard grade descriptions for Light Yellow Tinged cotton; and (3) Tentative types illustrating the preparation of long-staple cotton of the grades Strict Middling, Middling, and Strict Low Middling.]

Those proposals, in other words, involve some modification or change in the Universal Standards and necessarily should come up under the principal agreement for consideration at this conference. \* \* \*

The other matter that will be laid before the general conference pertains to the inclusion of the Japanese associations under the agreement with Europe. That matter, as you know, has been up at previous conferences with the European associations, but has not been adjusted. In fairness to the Japanese associations and in keeping with their interests and wishes in the matter, it has been felt that we should again bring it up at this conference.

I understand that boxes representing the proposed changes in the standards have been prepared and made available to you for your examination.

The conclusions arrived at and the final action of the department on the proposals concerning the American Egyptian and the Extra White standards will be found on pages 11 and 12.

The other proposals mentioned were the subject of various informal discussions among officials of the department and the delegates, and, as will appear later, were finally considered in a meeting under the principal Universal Standards Agreement.

#### MEETING UNDER SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT A

The following is quoted from the remarks of the chief of the bureau at the opening of the international meeting under Supplemental Agreement A, on the morning of March 16, 1929:

Standardization of cotton quality is one of the most important functions with which we deal. It is a function that has been authorized and commanded by Congress. It is a function that affects a great many people in this country. At least 10,000,000 farmers, on 2,000,000 farms, in 17 States, are producing cotton. In 10 of these States, cotton is an exceedingly important crop. It is of vital importance that this crop be merchandised with the least friction, least waste, and least expense possible. Standardization, and inspection under those standards, certainly tend to facilitate that process. \* \* \* The importance of that work is attested by the fact that representatives from England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Holland, and Belgium are present here to-day, and also representatives from Japan.

The specific meeting which we are holding to-day is associated with the international agreements that were effected in 1923, covering universal standards. A supplemental agreement was made in 1924 and was amended in 1925. We are meeting to-day to carry out the purposes of that supplemental agreement. We have had two meetings so far under this agreement. \* \* \* The department's undertakings, under the Universal Standards agreements, grow out of the responsibilities placed upon us under the cotton standards act. This statute makes it necessary and mandatory for the department to formulate and promulgate standards for cotton, and to provide duplicates of those standards for use in the commercial field. It is a responsibility that can not be delegated, but in carrying out this responsibility, we are always glad to have the cooperation of those who can be helpful to us. Congress intended we should have that cooperation, and, in keeping with that policy, we are glad to have you here to-day to cooperate with us in this work. Under Supplemental Agreement A, this meeting should have been held last Monday, the second Monday in March. As a matter of fact, the meeting was called in keeping with the agreement, the second Monday in March, but in order to accommodate the representatives from foreign countries who were not present, and could not be present, the conference was adjourned until to-day.



The purposes and functions of this meeting are clearly set forth in the supplemental agreement and are also clearly limited. They are to compare 65 sets of grade and color standards with the key sets that were prepared and stored in the Treasury at the last biennial meeting in 1927. This is essentially a working conference. The number of persons who can be accommodated in the laboratory is necessarily limited. The number of official representatives appointed by the foreign associations is fixed under the agreement not to exceed two for any association. In arranging for the American representation, the department has had the problem of deciding between two alternatives—we might ask the associations to select representatives or we might ask individuals in the cotton industry to be present and to represent those interests. We decided that the broader and more effective representation probably would result if we asked the associations to select their representatives. This is the course that we have followed. To make this plan successful, some organization will be necessary on the part of the representatives of this conference. That applies to the foreign representatives as well as to the American representatives. It is suggested, therefore, that both the American groups and the delegates from abroad undertake to make some arrangement satisfactory to themselves that will prevent congestion around the tables in the cotton laboratory. In the absence of objection, the procedure that was found last year to be satisfactory will be followed again this year. The standards boxes will be exhibited to two committees that will work simultaneously. One committee \* \* \* will review the lower grades and another committee \* \* \* will review the higher grades.

That, by way of introduction, is all that I care to say. I think you have clearly before you the specific purposes for which this conference to-day is called as provided for under Supplemental Agreement A. Before proceeding further, I think it would be very desirable to get better acquainted. I am, therefore, going to ask Mr. Finch<sup>2</sup> to read the names of the official delegates \* \* \*.

Representatives from the European and the American organizations were present, as follows:

*European delegates to Universal Cotton Standards Conference of 1929*

Centro Algodonero de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain: Mateo Olive, Pedro Baste. Bremer Baumwollborse, Bremen, Germany: Heinrich Westerschulte, George Albrecht Furst.

Marche de Coton a Gand, Ghent, Belgium: Auguste L. M. Van Horen, Jr., Robert Pflieger, Leopold F. Francois.

Syndicat du Commerce des Cotons au Havre, Havre, France: A. Schadeegg, J. Westphalen-Lemaître.

Liverpool Cotton Association (Ltd.), Liverpool, England: J. C. Finlay, A. C. Nickson.

Manchester Cotton Association (Ltd.), Manchester, England: William Heaps, Richard Brooks, H. Robinson (unofficial), Russell Brady (unofficial).

Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations (Ltd.), of England, Manchester, England: F. Holroyd, Joseph Wild.

Associazione Italiana Fascista degli Industriali Cotonieri, Milan, Italy: Luigi Garbagnati, Achille Olcese, Vincent Polli (unofficial), Dr. Aldo Scara-vaglio (unofficial).

Vereeniging voor den Katoenhandel te Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Holland: C. Stahl, jr., I. J. Kalmon.

(Mr. Jiichi Inouye, representing the Japan Cotton Spinners' Association and the Japan Cotton Merchants' Union, was in attendance as a guest of the department during the passing of the standard boxes.)

*American delegates to Universal Cotton Standards Conference of 1929*

American Cotton Shippers' Association, Memphis, Tenn: J. M. Locke, J. K. Dorrance, R. C. Dickerson, F. Lindsay.

American Cotton Manufacturers' Association, Charlotte, N. C.: Sydney Bluhm. Cotton Manufacturers' Association of North Carolina, Charlotte, N. C.: A. W. Fisher.

Cotton Manufacturers' Association of South Carolina, Clifton, S. C.: W. A. Floyd, E. W. Montgomery.

Cotton Manufacturers' Association of Georgia, Atlanta, Ga.: B. J. Kane.

The American Cotton Growers' Exchange, Dallas, Tex.: C. B. Howard, Howard Roberts, C. A. Martin, D. D. Williams.

Arkansas Cotton Trade Association, Little Rock, Ark.: S. Y. West.

Arkwright Club, Boston, Mass.: John H. Holt.

Atlantic Cotton Association, Atlanta, Ga.: D. H. Williams.

Board of Trade of the City of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.: W. R. Meadows.

California-Arizona-New Mexico Cotton Association, Los Angeles, Calif.: Howard M. Peek.

Cotton-Textile Institute, New York, N. Y.: F. R. McGowan.

<sup>2</sup> C. L. Finch, Supervisor of Administration, United States Cotton Standards Act.



Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.: W. E. Emley.  
 Mississippi Farm Bureau Cotton Association, Jackson, Miss.: G. M. McIntyre.  
 National Association of Cotton Manufacturers, Boston, Mass.: Russel Fisher,  
 John H. Holt.  
 New England Cotton Buyers' Association, Boston, Mass.: T. A. Parlon.  
 New Orleans Cotton Exchange, New Orleans, La.: H. Baumgarten.  
 New York Cotton Exchange, New York, N. Y.: Philip B. Weld.  
 Oklahoma State Cotton Exchange, Oklahoma City, Okla.: W. D. Maxwell.  
 The Rubber Association of America (Inc.), New York, N. Y.: Fred Taylor.  
 Southern Cotton Shippers' Association, Memphis, Tenn.: E. D. Hazelhurst.  
 Staple Cotton Cooperative Association, Greenwood, Miss.: Charles Holmes.  
 State College of Agriculture, Athens, Ga.: Prof. R. R. Childs.  
 Texas Cotton Association, Waco, Tex.: John Fuesler, Peter O'Donnell.

*Certificates of the international conference, signed at the conclusion of the work  
 on the copies of the Universal Standards, March 18, 1929*

The Honorable the SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

SIR: We, the cotton experts assembled at Washington, beginning on March 16, 1929, pursuant to Supplementary Agreement A, relating to the Universal Standards for American cotton, certify that we have examined and hereby approve as true copies of the original Universal Standards for American cotton as and when they were established sets of white cotton Nos. 701 to 765, both inclusive. This 18th day of March, 1929.

*Liverpool Cotton Association (Ltd.):*

J. C. FINLAY.

A. C. NICKSON.

*Manchester Cotton Association (Ltd.):*

WM. HEAPS.

RICH. BROOKS.

*Syndicat du Commerce des Cotons au  
 Havre:*

A. SCHADEGG.

*Bremer Baumwollborse:*

H. WESTERSCHULTE.

G. A. FURST.

*Associazione Italiana Fascista degli  
 Industriali Cotonieri:*

LUIGI GARBAGNATI.

ACHILLE OLCESE.

ALDO SCARAVAGLIO.

*Marché de Coton à Gand:*

A. VAN HOREN, JR.

ROBERT PELIEGER.

*Centro Algodonero de Barcelona:*

MATEO OLIVE.

PEDRO BASTE.

*Vereeniging voor den Katoenhandel te  
 Rotterdam:*

I. J. KALMON.

C. STAHL, JR.

*Federation of Master Cotton Spinners'  
 Associations (Ltd.), of England:*

F. HOLROYD.

JOSEPH WILD.

#### AMERICAN DELEGATES

CHARLES HOLMES, *Staple Cotton Co-  
 operative Association.*

SYDNEY BLUHM, *American Cotton  
 Manufacturers Association.*

A. W. FISHER, *Cotton Manufacturers'  
 Association of North Carolina.*

E. D. HAZELHURST, *Southern Cotton  
 Shippers Association.*

H. BAUMGARTEN, *New Orleans Cotton  
 Exchange.*

C. A. MARTIN, *American Cotton Grow-  
 ers Exchange; California-Arizona-  
 New Mexico Cotton Association.*

J. P. FUESLER, *Texas Cotton Associa-  
 tion.*

T. A. PARLON, *New England Cotton  
 Buyers Association.*

HOWARD ROBERTS, D. D. WILLIAMS,  
*The American Cotton Growers Ex-  
 change.*

D. H. WILLIAMS, *Atlantic Cotton As-  
 sociation.*

PETER O'DONNELL, *Texas Cotton Asso-  
 ciation.*

B. J. KANE, *Cotton Manufacturers'  
 Association of Georgia.*

W. D. MAXWELL, *Oklahoma State Cot-  
 ton Exchange.*

WILLIAM R. MEADOWS, *Board of Trade  
 of the City of Chicago.*

SID. Y. WEST, *Arkansas Cotton Trade  
 Association.*

PHILIP B. WELD, *New York Cotton  
 Exchange.*

E. W. MONTGOMERY, *Cotton Manufac-  
 turers' Association of South Caro-  
 lina.*

JOHN H. HOLT, *Arkwright Club. Na-  
 tional Association of Cotton Manu-  
 facturers.*

The Honorable the SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

SIR: We, the cotton experts assembled at Washington, beginning on March 16, 1929, pursuant to Supplementary Agreement A, relating to the Universal Standards for American cotton, certify that we have examined and hereby approve as true copies of the original Universal Standards for American cotton as and when they were established, sets of tinged and stained cotton Nos. 701 to 765, both inclusive. This 18th day of March, 1929.

*Liverpool Cotton Association (Ltd.):*

J. C. FINLAY.

A. C. NICKSON.

*Manchester Cotton Association (Ltd.):*

WM. HEAPS.

RICH. BROOKS.

*Syndicat du Commerce des Cotons au Havre:*

A. SCHADEGG,

*Bremer Baumwollbörse:*

H. WESTERSCHULTE.

G. A. FURST.

*Associazione Italiana Fascista degli Industriali Cotonieri:*

LUIGI GARBAGNATI.

ACHILLE OLCESE.

ALDO SCARAVAGLIO.

*Marché de Coton à Gand:*

A. VAN HOREN, Jr.

ROBERT PFLIEGER.

*Centro Algodonero de Barcelona:*

MATEO OLIVE.

PEDRO BASTE.

*Vereeniging voor den Katoenhandel te Rotterdam:*

I. J. KALMON.

C. STAHL, Jr.

*Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations (Ltd.), of England:*

F. HOLROYD.

JOSEPH WILD.

AMERICAN DELEGATES

CHAS. HOLMES, *Staple Cotton Cooperative Association.*

E. D. HAZELHURST, *Southern Cotton Shippers Association.*

SYDNEY BLUHM, *American Cotton Manufacturers Association.*

A. W. FISHER, *Cotton Manufacturers' Association of North Carolina.*

H. BAUMGARTEN, *New Orleans Cotton Exchange.*

C. A. MARTIN, *American Cotton Growers Exchange. California-Arizona-New Mexico Cotton Association.*

J. P. FUESLER, *Texas Cotton Association.*

HOWARD ROBERTS, *The American Cotton Growers' Exchange.*

T. A. PARLON, *New England Cotton Buyers Association.*

D. D. WILLIAMS, *The American Cotton Growers Exchange.*

PETER O'DONNELL, *Texas Cotton Association.*

B. J. KANE, *Cotton Manufacturers' Association of Georgia.*

W. D. MAXWELL, *Oklahoma State Cotton Exchange.*

D. H. WILLIAMS, *Atlantic Cotton Association.*

WM. R. MEADOWS, *Board of Trade of the City of Chicago.*

SID. Y. WEST, *Arkansas Cotton Trade Association.*

PHILIP B. WELD, *New York Cotton Exchange.*

E. W. MONTGOMERY, *Cotton Manufacturers' Association of South Carolina.*

JOHN H. HOLT, *Arkwright Club. National Association of Cotton Manufacturers.*

We, the members of the special committee appointed to safeguard the handling, storage, and transportation of the key sets of standards prepared in the Universal Standards Conference which convened in the city of Washington on March 16, 1929, pursuant to Supplemental Agreement A relating to the Universal Standards for American Cotton, certify that the following numbered sets were allotted, as shown herein, at a drawing held in accordance with said Supplemental Agreement A, in room 406 of the building at 300 Linworth Place SW., at 4.30 o'clock on March 18, 1929:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 701. United States Department of Agriculture. | 706. Second set drawn by Liverpool.                            |
| 702. United States Department of Agriculture. | 707. First reserve set of 1929.                                |
| 703. Third set drawn by Rotterdam.            | 708. Second set drawn by Manchester Cotton Association (Ltd.). |
| 704. Second set drawn by Rotterdam.           | 709. Third set drawn by Bremen.                                |
| 705. First set drawn by Bremen.               | 710. American Cotton Shippers Association.                     |



711. First set drawn by the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations (Ltd.).
712. Tenth set drawn by Bremen (white boxes only).
713. Seventh set drawn by Bremen.
714. United States Department of Agriculture.
715. Third set drawn by Havre.
716. Second set drawn by Havre.
717. Third set drawn by Ghent.
718. Third set drawn by Manchester Cotton Association (Ltd.).
719. Fourth set drawn by Liverpool (white boxes only).
720. New Orleans Cotton Exchange.
721. Fourth set drawn by Havre.
722. Sixth set drawn by Havre.
723. Second set drawn by Barcelona.
724. Fifth set drawn by Bremen.
725. Sixth set drawn by Bremen.
726. Second set drawn by the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations (Ltd.).
727. United States Department of Agriculture.
728. Fourth set drawn by Bremen.
729. Japan Cotton Merchants' Union.
730. Second set drawn by Bremen.
731. United States Department of Agriculture.
732. Ninth set drawn by Bremen (white boxes only).
733. United States Department of Agriculture.
734. United States Department of Agriculture.
735. Joint Southern Arbitration Board.
736. United States Department of Agriculture.
737. Chicago Board of Trade.
738. Third set drawn by Liverpool.
739. United States Department of Agriculture.
740. First set drawn by Manchester Cotton Association (Ltd.).
741. First set drawn by Liverpool.
742. Third set drawn by Milan.
743. First set drawn by Milan.
744. United States Department of Agriculture.
745. First set drawn by Ghent.
746. New England Cotton Buyers Association.
747. Japan Cotton Spinners' Association.
748. Seventh set drawn by Havre.
749. Second set drawn by Milan.
750. United States Department of Agriculture.
751. Third set drawn by Barcelona.
752. United States Department of Agriculture.
753. First set drawn by Rotterdam.
754. Second reserve set of 1929.
755. United States Department of Agriculture.
756. First set drawn by Barcelona.
757. Eighth set drawn by Bremen (white boxes only).
758. First set drawn by Havre.
759. United States Department of Agriculture.
760. New York Cotton Exchange.
761. United States Department of Agriculture.
762. American Cotton Growers Exchange.
763. Fifth set drawn by Havre.
764. United States Department of Agriculture.
765. Second set drawn by Ghent.

J. C. FINLAY  
 GEORGE A. FURST.  
 JOSEPH WILD  
 D. D. WILLIAMS.  
 T. A. PARLON.  
 H. C. SLADE.

#### MEETING UNDER PRINCIPAL UNIVERSAL STANDARDS AGREEMENT

At the opening of the meeting on March 19, 1929, under the Principal Universal Standards Agreement, the chief of the bureau said in part:

\* \* \* In the communication that went forward to you about January 22, we indicated that there were two or three proposals that we should like to submit for consideration under the principal agreement. \* \* \* I am going to read a statement covering those proposals \* \* \*:

*First:* That the department take steps to represent in practical form the grades Good Middling Spotted, Strict Middling Spotted, Middling Spotted, Strict Low Middling Spotted, and Low Middling Spotted, which are now descriptive.

The department has stated that it would give consideration to these recommendations. It has been explained, however, that in view of the provisions of the Principal Universal Standards Agreement, the department can not make this change until the proposal has been considered in a meeting which the respective associations have been given opportunity to attend.

Tentative boxes illustrative of the various grades of spotted cotton have been prepared and made available for your consideration. These tentative grade boxes do not embrace the entire range of color between the corresponding grades of white cotton and

those of yellow tinged as do the present descriptive standards for spotted cotton. The plan proposed, therefore, embraces:

*Second:* A proposal to set up standard grade descriptions between spotted cottons of the grades Good Middling to Low Middling, inclusive, and Yellow Tinged of the same grades, such proposed new grades to be known as Good Middling Light Yellow Tinged, Strict Middling Light Yellow Tinged, Middling Light Yellow Tinged, Strict Low Middling Light Yellow Tinged, and Low Middling Light Yellow Tinged.

These would be descriptive standards, defined as above indicated by the practical forms of spotted and tinged cotton.

There has been a feeling among various people in the industry that the range of color represented by the descriptive standards for spotted cotton is too wide, and that the use of private types in lieu of the descriptive standards for spotted cotton is not a satisfactory solution of the problem. The proposals now under consideration would bridge the gap between the present boxes for White cotton and those for Yellow Tinged by setting up boxes for the spotted grades and descriptive standards for Light Yellow Tinged cottons falling in color between the spotted and Yellow Tinged.

*Third:* The request has been made that types be prepared to illustrate the preparation of three grades of long-staple cotton.

A tentative box is available which has been prepared to illustrate the range of preparation of staple cotton of the grades Strict Middling, Middling, and Strict Low Middling.

That, gentlemen, is a statement of the proposals which we are laying before the session. As administrators of the cotton standards act, we look upon it as our obligation and duty to meet the demands and needs of the cotton industry, in so far as those are sound, legitimate demands; and in so far as they can be met. At the same time, we recognize our obligations under this agreement, not to make these changes until they have been considered in a conference under the agreement. \* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION CONCERNING STANDARDS FOR SPOTTED COTTON

After the foregoing presentation by the Chief of the Bureau, J. C. Finlay, of Liverpool, explained that the European delegates upon considering the matter among themselves had adopted the following resolution:

The question of spotted standards has been submitted by the department at very short notice. The European committee does not yet know how the adoption of such standards will affect the futures markets of the world, and for this reason the committee can not for the time being arrive at any decision with regard to the principle of the acceptance of these standards.

Thus it was not possible at this time to arrive at any definite conclusion on the first two proposals.

#### RESOLUTION CONCERNING STANDARDS FOR BLUE STAINED AND YELLOW STAINED COTTON

At the same time Mr. Finlay explained that in view of the fact that the present standard boxes for Blue Stained and Yellow Stained cottons have been in recent years of rather limited application, the European delegates had also unanimously agreed upon the following resolution:

That the standards of Blue and Yellow Stained \* \* \* be transferred to inactive standards and that such standards be not submitted to be passed at the biennial conference.

A representative of the bureau stated in reply that it seemed possible that some arrangement might be made which would exclude the Yellow Stained and Blue Stained boxes from consideration at subsequent conferences.

#### PREPARATION OF LONG-STAPLE COTTON

With respect to the proposal that types be prepared to illustrate the preparation of Strict Middling, Middling, and Strict Low Middling long-staple cotton, it may be stated that the desirability of such proposed standards was generally accepted from the standpoint of principle. At the same time the understanding was arrived at that the department, subject to the Secretary's approval, would prepare tentative standards for preparation for use in America and in Europe during the next two years, so that the experience gained by the industry in purchases and sales based upon the tentative standards might be known, and the general usefulness of such standards demonstrated, before their final official promulgation subsequent to the Universal Standards Conference of 1931. On May 20, 1929, the Secretary issued a public notice on this subject, which will be found quoted on pages 14 and 15.

#### PROPOSED JAPANESE PARTICIPATION

In his comments on the question of Japanese participation, the chief of the bureau said:

The department has felt throughout that the Japanese associations should be included in the agreement, because these are Universal Standards. Certainly large takers, like the Japanese, might be expected to add their approval to the work, just as you have.



They are now the third largest takers of American cotton, and naturally there is much to say for their inclusion under this agreement. Furthermore, as you all know, the Japanese associations would like to be parties to the agreement. Therefore, we have brought the matter up again. We thought it would be proper and desirable to have an expression of opinion from the delegates to this conference.

After discussion of this question among its members, the European delegation presented the following resolution:

In regard to the question of the Japanese associations becoming signatories to the agreement, the European exchanges adhere to their previous decision that they can not agree to any change in the present status. They have no objection, however, to the Department of Agriculture making a separate agreement with Japan, but 50 per cent of the voting power must be retained by the European exchanges. Under such circumstances Japan would be welcomed to take part in the passing of the standards.

Therefore, further consideration will be given to the terms upon which the Japanese organizations may, if they desire, participate in subsequent conferences without actual inclusion as signatories to the present Universal Standards Agreements.

#### GINNING METHODS

The delegates to the conference went definitely on record as urging the improvement of present ginning methods, which are said to result in deterioration in the quality of spinnable cotton. A resolution was adopted condemning the tendency to hurry the work through the gins, and declaring that present methods are detrimental to the farmer, the merchant, and the spinner.

#### AMERICAN EGYPTIAN COTTON—REVISION OF STANDARDS

An order promulgating revised standards for American Egyptian cotton was signed by Arthur M. Hyde, Secretary of Agriculture, on April 10, 1929, effective August 1, 1930, with provision for their use meanwhile as tentative standards. A need for the new standards was found to exist for the reason that changes in the color and preparation of the American Egyptian cotton crop during recent years had been such that the present standards were no longer representative of American Egyptian cotton as now produced.

The revised standards were exhibited in tentative form to representatives of interested groups of farmers, merchants, and manufacturers who were in attendance at the Universal Cotton Standards Conference of 1929. These representatives were unanimous in expressing a desire that the proposed revision and repromulgation be made by the department.

It will be noted that the order of promulgation, which is quoted below, contains no provision for intermediate or half grades. It is believed, however, that the new standards will be adequate.

#### *Public notice establishing official cotton standards of the United States for grades and colors of American Egyptian cotton*

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Agriculture by section 9 of the United States cotton futures act, approved August 11, 1916 (39 Stat. L. 476; as amended March 4, 1919, 40 Stat. 1348, 1351; May 31, 1920, 41 Stat. 725; and February 26, 1927, Public No. 657, 69th Cong.), and by section 6 of the United States cotton standards act (42 Stat. 1517), I, Arthur M. Hyde, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby establish, promulgate, and give public notice of standards for grades and colors of cotton of varieties known as American Egyptian, effective August 1, 1930, as hereinafter set forth. Said standards shall thereupon supersede and replace the present standards for grades and colors of American Egyptian cotton which were established by the Secretary of Agriculture on July 26, 1924.

For the purpose of these standards:

SECTION 1. *Grade No. 1.*—Grade No. 1 shall be American Egyptian cotton which in grade and color is within the range represented by a set of samples in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture in the District of Columbia in a container marked "Original Official Cotton Standards of the United States, American Egyptian, Grade No. 1, effective August 1, 1930."

SEC. 2. *Grade No. 2.*—Grade No. 2 shall be American Egyptian cotton which in grade and color is within the range represented by a set of samples in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture in the District of Columbia in a container marked "Original Official Cotton Standards of the United States, American Egyptian, Grade No. 2, effective August 1, 1930."

SEC. 3. *Grade No. 3.*—Grade No. 3 shall be American Egyptian cotton which in grade and color is within the range represented by a set of samples in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture in the District of Columbia in a container marked "Original Official Cotton Standards of the United States, American Egyptian, Grade No. 3, effective August 1, 1930."

SEC. 4. *Grade No. 4.*—Grade No. 4 shall be American Egyptian cotton which in grade and color is within the range represented by a set of samples in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture in the District of Columbia in a container marked "Original Official Cotton Standards of the United States, American Egyptian, Grade No. 4, effective August 1, 1930."

SEC. 5. *Grade No. 5.*—Grade No. 5 shall be American Egyptian cotton which in grade and color is within the range represented by a set of samples in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture in the District of Columbia in a container marked "Original Official Cotton Standards of the United States, American Egyptian, Grade No. 5, effective August 1, 1930."

SEC. 6. *Below Grade No. 5.*—American Egyptian cotton which in grade and/or color is inferior to Grade No. 5 shall be designated "Below Grade No. 5."

SEC. 7. *Extraneous matter.*—American Egyptian cotton containing cracked seeds, seed kernels, sand, or other extraneous matter shall be graded as if it contained an equivalent of leaf and trash as represented in the respective grades described in sections 1 to 7, inclusive, of this order.

SEC. 8. *Repacked.*—American Egyptian cotton that is composed of factors', brokers', or other samples, or of loose or miscellaneous lots, collected and rebaled, shall, in addition to its grade, be designated "Repacked."

SEC. 9. *False Packed.*—American Egyptian cotton in a bale (1) containing substances entirely foreign to cotton; (2) containing damaged cotton in the interior, with or without any indication of such damage upon the exterior; (3) composed of good cotton upon the exterior and exceedingly inferior cotton in the interior in such manner as not to be detected by customary examination; that is, a plated bale; or (4) containing pickings or linters worked into the bale, shall, in addition to its grade, be designated "False Packed."

SEC. 10. *Mixed Packed.*—American Egyptian cotton in a bale which shows a difference of more than two grades between samples drawn from the heads and the top and bottom sides of the bale, or which shows a difference in color between such samples exceeding two grades, shall, in addition to its lowest grade, be designated "Mixed Packed."

SEC. 11. *Water Packed.*—American Egyptian cotton in a bale that has been penetrated by water during the baling process, causing damage to the fibers, or a bale that, through exposure to the weather or by other means, while apparently dry on the exterior, has been damaged by water in the interior, shall, in addition to its grade, be designated "Water Packed."

Until their effective date, August 1, 1930, the foregoing standards may be used as tentative or permissive standards in the purchase and sale of American Egyptian cotton.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Department of Agriculture to be affixed, in the city of Washington, this 10th day of April, 1929.



Arthur C. Hyde

Secretary of Agriculture.

### EXTRA WHITE COTTON—REVISION OF STANDARDS

On April 10, 1929, Secretary Hyde signed an order, effective August 1, 1930, promulgating revised standards for Extra White cotton. The Extra White standards apply in the grade classification of upland cotton wherever grown. The upland cottons include all of the American commercial production except the American Egyptian and Sea Island types. As repromulgated, the Extra White standards conform with the white grades of the Universal Standards in leaf and preparation and exemplify primarily the color differences.



The revised Extra White standards, like the American Egyptian, were exhibited in tentative form to representatives of interested organizations of farmers, merchants, and manufacturers who were in attendance at the Universal Standards Conference of 1929, and these representatives unanimously expressed a desire that the proposed revision and repromulgation be made by the department. Under the terms of the order of promulgation the new standards may be used prior to August 1, 1930, in the purchase and sale of cottons to which they apply, if specific reference is made to them in descriptions mutually agreed to by buyers and sellers.

The order of promulgation was as follows:

*Public notice establishing official cotton standards of the United States for Extra White cotton*

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Agriculture by the United States cotton futures act, approved August 11, 1916 (39 Stat. L. 476; amended March 4, 1919, 40 Stat. 1348, 1351; May 31, 1920, 41 Stat. 725; and February 26, 1927, Public No. 657, 69th Cong.), and by section 6 of the United States cotton standards act, approved March 4, 1923 (42 Stat. 1517), I, Arthur M. Hyde, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby establish, promulgate, and give public notice of standards, for cotton known as Extra White, effective August 1, 1930, as hereinafter set forth. Said standards shall thereupon supersede and replace the present standards for grades and colors of Extra White cotton which were promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture on March 3, 1926, and under the United States cotton futures act, as amended, on August 30, 1927.

For the purposes of these standards:

No. 3 Extra White, or Good Middling Extra White, shall be cotton which in grade and color is within the range represented by a set of samples in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture in a container marked "Original Official Cotton Standards of the United States, Extra White, No. 3 or Good Middling Extra White, effective August 1, 1930."

No. 4 Extra White, or Strict Middling Extra White, shall be cotton which in grade and color is within the range represented by a set of samples in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture in a container marked "Original Official Cotton Standards of the United States, Extra White, No. 4 or Strict Middling Extra White, effective August 1, 1930."

No. 5 Extra White, or Middling Extra White, shall be cotton which in grade and color is within the range represented by a set of samples in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture in a container marked "Original Official Cotton Standards of the United States, Extra White, No. 5 or Middling Extra White, effective August 1, 1930."

No. 6 Extra White, or Strict Low Middling Extra White, shall be cotton which in grade and color is within the range represented by a set of samples in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture in a container marked "Original Official Cotton Standards of the United States, Extra White, No. 6 or Strict Low Middling Extra White, effective August 1, 1930."

No. 7 Extra White, or Low Middling Extra White, shall be cotton which in grade and color is within the range represented by a set of samples in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture in a container marked "Original Official Cotton Standards of the United States, Extra White, No. 7 or Low Middling Extra White, effective August 1, 1930."

Until their effective date, August 1, 1930, the foregoing standards may be used as tentative or permissive standards in the purchase and sale of Extra White cotton in spot transactions when specifically indicated.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Department of Agriculture to be affixed, in the city of Washington, this 10th day of April, 1929.



*Arthur M. Hyde*

*Secretary of Agriculture.*

The public notice heretofore mentioned, relating to the tentative standards for the preparation of long-staple cotton, was worded as follows:

## PUBLIC NOTICE CONCERNING TENTATIVE STANDARDS FOR PREPARATION OF LONG-STAPLE COTTON

I, Arthur M. Hyde, Secretary of Agriculture, hereby give public notice of intention to establish and promulgate under the United States Cotton Standards Act of March 4, 1923 (42 Stat. 1517), official cotton standards of the United States for the preparation of long-staple cotton. In order to arrive at a more exact basis for final standardization and to demonstrate the usefulness of such standards, tentative standards for the preparation of long-staple cotton of the grades Strict Middling, Middling, and Strict Low Middling are hereby announced, which, pending final promulgation, may be made use of by express contract provisions in the purchase and sale of such cotton in spot transactions: *Provided*, That "B Preparation" shall be deemed the preparation of each grade specified herein when no other preparation is stipulated.

1. The tentative standards for preparation of American upland long-staple cotton of the grade No. 4 or Strict Middling shall be the preparation of a set of samples in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture, in the city of Washington, in containers marked, respectively:

A. Original Tentative Standard of the United States for A Preparation of Long-Staple American Upland cotton of the Grade No. 4 or Strict Middling (otherwise designated as Preparation Type A for Strict Middling) as announced May 20, 1929.

B. Original Tentative Standard of the United States for B Preparation of Long-Staple American Upland cotton of the Grade No. 5 or Middling (otherwise designated as Preparation Type B for Middling) as announced May 20, 1929.

C. Original Tentative Standard of the United States for C Preparation of Long-Staple American Upland cotton of the Grade No. 4 or Strict Middling (otherwise designated as Preparation Type C for Strict Middling) as announced May 20, 1929.

2. The tentative standards for preparation of American upland long-staple cotton of the grade No. 5 or Middling shall be the preparation of a set of samples in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture, in the city of Washington, in containers marked, respectively:

A. Original Tentative Standard of the United States for A Preparation of Long-Staple American Upland cotton of the Grade No. 5 or Middling (otherwise designated as Preparation Type A for Middling) as announced May 20, 1929.

B. Original Tentative Standard of the United States for B Preparation of Long-Staple American Upland cotton of the Grade No. 5 or Middling (otherwise designated as Preparation Type B for Middling) as announced May 20, 1929.

C. Original Tentative Standard of the United States for C Preparation of Long-Staple American Upland cotton of the Grade No. 5 or Middling (otherwise designated as Preparation Type C for Middling) as announced May 20, 1929.

3. The tentative standard for preparation of American upland long-staple cotton of the grade No. 6 or Strict Low Middling shall be the preparation of a set of samples in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture, in the city of Washington, in containers marked, respectively:

A. Original Tentative Standard of the United States for A Preparation of Long-Staple American Upland cotton of the Grade No. 6 or Strict Low Middling (otherwise designated as Preparation Type A for Strict Low Middling) as announced May 20, 1929.

B. Original Tentative Standard of the United States for B Preparation of Long-Staple American Upland cotton of the Grade No. 6 or Strict Low Middling (otherwise designated as Preparation Type B for Strict Low Middling) as announced May 20, 1929.

C. Original Tentative Standard of the United States for C Preparation of Long-Staple American Upland cotton of the Grade No. 6 or Strict Low Middling (otherwise designated as Preparation Type C for Strict Low Middling) as announced May 20, 1929.



The term long-staple cotton, as used herein, shall, until further notice, be construed to mean cotton which is  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches and above in length of staple.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Department of Agriculture to be affixed, in the city of Washington, this 20th day of May, 1929.



*Arthur W. Hyde*

Secretary of Agriculture.

## STAPLE STANDARDS—AMENDMENTS OF OFFICIAL ORDER

The original order of October 25, 1918, promulgating staple standards was as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
Washington.

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Agriculture by section 9 of the United States cotton futures act approved August 11, 1916, 39 United States Statutes at Large, page 476, I, David F. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby establish, promulgate, and give public notice of, standards for length of staple of cotton, effective October 25, 1918, as follows:

### OFFICIAL COTTON STANDARDS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR LENGTH OF STAPLE

For the purposes of these standards:

SECTION 1. The length of staple of any cotton shall be the normal length by measurement, without regard to quality or value, of a typical portion of its fibers under a relative humidity of the atmosphere of 65 per cent and a temperature of 70° F.

SEC. 2. The length of staple of any cotton shall be designated by that one of the following terms which expresses its measurement in inches or fractions of an inch in accordance with section 1 of this order:

Below  $\frac{3}{4}$ ;  $\frac{3}{4}$ ;  $\frac{11}{16}$ ;  $\frac{7}{8}$ ;  $\frac{13}{16}$ ; 1;  $1\frac{1}{16}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ;  $1\frac{3}{8}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ;  $1\frac{5}{8}$ ;  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ;  $1\frac{7}{8}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{16}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ;  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{16}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ;  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ; and upward in like manner in gradations of thirty-seconds, disregarding any fraction less than a thirty-second.

SEC. 3. The lengths of staple designated as  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{7}{8}$ , 1,  $1\frac{1}{16}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches, respectively, are each represented by a sample in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture in a container marked "Original Official Cotton Standards of the United States, Length of Staple" followed by the appropriate designation of such length of staple.

SEC. 4. Cotton which is more than three-fourths of an inch in length of staple, but is not exactly one of the measurements specified in section 2 of this order, shall be designated by that one of such measurements which comes nearest under its true measurement.

SEC. 5. Whenever the length of staple of cotton taken from one part of a bale is different from that taken from another part of the same bale, the length of staple of the cotton in such bale shall be that of the part which is the shorter.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Department of Agriculture to be affixed, in the District of Columbia, this 25th day of October, 1918.

D. F. HOUSTON,  
Secretary.



Sections 2 and 3 of the foregoing order have been revised, as follows:

On November 16, 1928, section 2 was amended by Acting Secretary R. W. Dunlap, effective one year from that date, by inserting the additional length designations  $\frac{23}{32}$  and  $\frac{31}{32}$ . The need for such designations arose from the fact that considerable cotton of these lengths is grown which heretofore has been sold by private type or sample or as  $\frac{7}{8}$  and  $1\frac{1}{8}$ , respectively. No arrangements have so far been made for the issuance of staple types of these added lengths.

Section 3 has been amended from time to time to provide for the representation in practical form of the staple lengths  $\frac{11}{16}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{16}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ , and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches and various lengths in steps of thirty-seconds of an inch. It was last amended by Secretary Jardine on March 5, 1928, effective August 1, 1929, to read as follows:

SEC. 3. The lengths of staple designated as  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{7}{8}$ ,  $\frac{11}{16}$ , 1,  $1\frac{1}{16}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{16}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{16}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ , and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, respectively, are each represented by a quantity of American upland cotton suitably contained, and marked "Original Representation of Official Cotton Standards of the United States, (American Upland), Length of Staple," followed in each instance by the appropriate designation of staple length and the effective date hereof; and the lengths of staple designated as  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $1\frac{3}{8}$ , and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches are each represented by a quantity of American Egyptian cotton suitably contained, and marked "Original Representation of Official Cotton Standards of the United States,

(American Egyptian), Length of Staple," followed in each instance by the appropriate designation of staple length and the effective date hereof, which said quantities of cotton are to be kept in the custody of the United States Department of Agriculture.

An entire bale of cotton is now the "Original Representation" for each length, and thus there will be a sufficient quantity of each to permit reference to it, as need arises from time to time, without risk of early depletion. These key bales are kept in a vault constructed for the purpose.

### SOUTHERN DELIVERY ON FUTURES CONTRACTS OF THE NEW YORK COTTON EXCHANGE

On November 16, 1928, the New York Cotton Exchange amended its by-laws to provide, among other things, that cotton tendered in settlement of its contracts under section 5 of the United States Cotton Futures Act shall be "deliverable from licensed warehouse in the ports of New York, Norfolk, Charleston, Galveston, Houston, or New Orleans, \* \* \* delivery to be at seller's option in one warehouse, upon notice to buyer, as provided by the by-laws and rules of the New York Cotton Exchange."

Trading in the new form of contract, which thus made provision for delivery at southern ports, began on January 2, 1929, and the first delivery month under the new contract is October, 1929.

### OPINIONS AND LETTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE COTTON INDUSTRY<sup>3</sup>

#### 1. MILLIMETER DESCRIPTIONS, AS THEY HAVE COME TO BE APPLIED IN RECENT YEARS TO COTTON OF OR WITHIN THE LENGTHS EMBRACED IN THE OFFICIAL COTTON STANDARDS FOR LENGTH OF STAPLE, ARE CONTRARY TO THE UNITED STATES COTTON STANDARDS ACT

[Letter of inquiry]

JUNE 7, 1928.

MR. LLOYD S. TENNY,<sup>4</sup>

*Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR MR. TENNY: In a resolution adopted at the meeting of the board of directors of this association, held in Memphis on June 3, the fact was emphasized that doubts have arisen among members of the American cotton trade as to the proper interpretation of the United States Cotton Standards Act in its application to the purchase and sale of cotton on millimeter descriptions, as now understood and used in the trade. The resolution states that these doubts have been intensified by recent comparisons of Government inch standards with millimeter descriptions, and contains the suggestion that the Department of Agriculture be requested to furnish the association with an interpretation of the provisions of the cotton standards act which would apply to the present day use of these descriptions in purchases and sales of cotton in interstate and foreign commerce.

We refer you to the statement made by a committee of this association to the conference of April 9 and 10, 1923, which we believe was considered by the solicitor in expressing his opinion of April 30, 1923, and quote below the second paragraph of the committee's statement:

The term 28 mm., 28/29 mm., etc., which has existed for many years in the common usage of the cotton trade in Liverpool, the European continent, Japan and China, and to which the American shipper has conformed, does not, in the opinion of your committee, represent any specific or definite length of staple alone, which could be expressed or translated in terms of inches, according to measurement, but, on the contrary, represents an "idea of conception" in the minds of European merchants and consumers, as well as American shippers, through long years of usage of a combination of length of staple, character, quality, body, and breaking strength.

(Then follow references to millimeter descriptions as expressed by various foreign trade bodies in terms of the official cotton standards of the United States for length of staple.)

<sup>3</sup> Previously issued in mimeographed form; republished here to be available in permanent form.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Tenny was Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Dec. 16, 1926, to July 16, 1928.



It would appear that these expressions made by the foreign bodies show conclusively that the opinions expressed by our committee in the 1923 conference were based on trade understandings and customs which existed at that time but do not exist at the present time. These facts are the basis of the resolution adopted by the directors of this association on June 3 and are responsible for this inquiry as to whether the American shipper by continuing to sell on millimeter descriptions is not really evading the intent of the law contained in the cotton standards act, and we request that you furnish us with an opinion on this subject.

Yours very truly,

[Reply]

JUNE 9, 1928.

MR. LLOYD S. TENNY,  
*Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.*

DEAR MR. TENNY: I have given careful consideration to \* \* \* the letter of June 7 from \* \* \*, relative to the legality of the use of millimeter descriptions as now understood and applied in the cotton trade.

The act provides that if the cotton which is the subject of a transaction or shipment in interstate or foreign commerce "is of or within the official cotton standards of the United States," it shall be unlawful for any person to refer to it by a name, description or designation not used in the standards, whether this be in connection with a particular transaction or shipment or in a quotation of prices based on several transactions or shipments or in the classification of the cotton. The official standards include standards for the length of cotton in terms of inches; for example  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch,  $\frac{11}{16}$  inch,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches, etc. Hence, if the staple length of the cotton referred to by millimeter description is "of or within" the range of lengths included in the standards, the use of the millimeter description is *prima facie* a violation of the act.

In an opinion of April 30, 1923, I advised you that the use of the millimeter description as then understood and applied was not a violation of the act. It was then represented to and understood by the department that the millimeter description did not refer to length alone, but embraced other qualities not covered by the standards, such as the character of the cotton. The department's information now is that millimeter descriptions have come to relate to length, various translations in terms of the official cotton standards of the United States having been circulated both abroad and in this country by different individuals and organizations in the trade. This is established by ample evidence in your possession. It seems clear, therefore, that under present usage millimeter descriptions, as applied to cotton which is of or within the lengths embraced in the official standards, are contrary to the United States Cotton Standards Act.

In view of my previous opinion and the department's application of it, it can not be said, of course, that persons who have heretofore entered into contracts of purchase and sale based upon millimeter descriptions have "knowingly" violated the act within the meaning of section 9. I think it proper, therefore, that interested parties be permitted to carry out in accordance with their original terms any such contracts which are outstanding at the present time.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

R. W. WILLIAMS,  
*Solicitor.*

2. FOREIGN ARBITRATIONS ON GRADE, STAPLE, CHARACTER, ETC., FINALITY OF—  
USE OF DESCRIPTIONS "FULL," "FULL STAPLE," "STRONG STAPLE," "BRIGHT,"  
"BRIGHT AND SHOWY," "SLIGHTLY DULL," "STRICT MIDDLING 7/8 TO 15/16"

JULY 9, 1928.

DEAR MR. ———: I have your letter \* \* \* in which you request our comments on various questions. I am quoting these questions, in the order in which you presented them, followed by our comments in each case:

1. As long as the foreign exchanges such as Liverpool, Havre, Bremen, and Milan, have been officially appointed by the Department of Agriculture as appeal boards and arbitrators for grade only, will these exchanges have the power to arbitrate cotton for both grade and staple in inches, providing that both buyer and seller are agreeable thereto?

This matter will rest entirely with the trade and the exchanges concerned. The fact that arbitrations with respect to staple are entirely outside the scope of the universal standards agreements does not in any way prevent the European associations from arbitrating shipments for staple against the United States official staple standards. The agreements provide that "it is expressly understood that no agreement has been reached between the parties (i. e., the department and the associations) as to staple standards or staple determinations." The principal feature, therefore, to be noted with respect to staple in arbitrations is that findings or awards of committees of the European associations for staple would lack the finality under the cotton standards act which the agreements give to findings or awards for grade and color.

2. As long as the official cotton standards of the United States apply only to length of staple and not to *strength, body, or other characteristics*, would such arbitrations by the foreign exchanges refer to length only, or could they include character in some way?

(a) If so, how?

(b) If not, should not the American Cotton Shippers' Association or the Secretary of Agriculture put the foreign exchanges on notice at this time, as cotton is being offered and sold daily on the basis of Government standards in inches, and practical forms are being provided to represent the department's idea of length. There is apparently some danger that the foreign arbitrators will arbitrate cotton offered against Government standards for length against the character of the Government standards as well as the length on the rule.

The extent to which foreign arbitration committees can deal with the question of character in addition to length depends, we think, entirely upon the extent to which a description of character, in addition to the description of length, is written into the contract, either directly or by reference. No arbitration committee, we think, in making a determination of character can properly go beyond the terms of the contract. The Official Cotton Standards of the United States for length of staple are, as indicated, standards for length only, and their use in a contract description would not of itself give any warrant to an arbitration committee for arbitrating for character a delivery on such a contract. If our position on this point is correct and if in your opinion this view is not held by the European arbitration committees, then we think it would be proper and desirable for the shippers or their organization to bring the matter to the attention of the proper persons or organizations in Europe. We would not undertake to say whether it is practical to sell cotton wholly on description without including in the description some reference to character, but in our judgment any description of character ought to be expressed so that its meaning to the arbitration committee will be as clear and definite as possible. Although no standards for character have been promulgated we would see no objection to describing cotton for character by reference to the character of cotton used in the practical forms to portray the standards for length of staple.

3. As long as the foreign exchanges have not been officially authorized to issue final certificates of classification for staple length or for character against description, would such arbitrations held by these foreign exchanges be binding on either the buyer or the seller?

(a) If the buyer and seller specifically agreed to accept them?

(b) If cotton was sold subject to say "Havre terms," "Liverpool terms," "Bremen terms," without a specific agreement between the buyer and seller to abide by the decision. If so, could the decision be enforced in the courts of the United States?

The extent to which the findings of an arbitration board or committee on staple would be binding, in the absence of a final certificate of classification inconsistent therewith issued under the cotton standards act, would depend entirely upon the terms of the contract and the trade or exchange rules incorporated into it by reference. The question of whether the findings would be binding as against a certificate of the department is one which the courts have not specifically determined.

If cotton is sold subject to "Havre terms," "Liverpool terms," "Bremen terms," etc., the parties presumably would be bound in matters of arbitration in the same way and to the same extent as indicated in the preceding paragraph. The right of one of the interested parties to sue in a Federal court in this



country would be determined by the usual rules relating to civil actions filed in such courts, rather than by the provisions of the cotton standards act.

4. Has the seller the right to describe his cotton in offers of sale on description and not on type in terms which qualify the Government staple lengths? For instance, Strict Middling inch full staple, or Strict Middling inch strong staple. If so, in the event of arbitration how would this cotton be arbitrated? Would it be arbitrated against the 1-inch staple type for length only or would it be arbitrated against "idea or conception" of something imaginary? That is, would better body be required if length same as Government inch staple type, or would requirement be for staple slightly longer than inch but not as long as inch and one thirty-second?

We seem obliged to make a distinction between such descriptions as "inch, full staple" or "full inch" on the one hand, and "inch, strong staple" on the other. In the one instance there would seem to be an attempt to warp the standard and make of it something different from what it is. There is no warrant in the law for such a use of the standards and full inch in our opinion can mean nothing more than *equal in length to the standard for inch cotton*. The terms "full" and "full staple" thus seem to us to be meaningless when applied to the standards. In the description "inch, strong staple," however, we would understand that the length was to equal the inch standard and that the words "strong staple" were a description of character. In the absence of standards for character there is no legal limitation upon the terms which can be used to describe character in interstate and export transactions, but it may be well to observe that in the absence of standards the determination of whether or not a shipment meets the description of character in the contract rests largely, if not wholly, upon the judgment of the arbitrators. In our judgment, the use of qualifying terms which leave a great deal to the "ideas and conceptions" of arbitrators is bad practice even in those cases where it may not be illegal; and we think it ought to be avoided as much as possible. What meaning an arbitration committee would give to the term "strong staple" as a description of character we are unable to say.

5. Would the seller be authorized to describe his cotton for grade by some qualifications to the Universal Standards such as Strict Middling bright and showy, or Middling slightly dull, or Middling slightly blue, and, if so, what would this cotton be arbitrated against?

It would not appear to be contrary to the law to describe cotton by such terms as "strict middling bright and showy," middling slightly dull," "middling slightly blue," etc., provided the term "strict middling bright and showy," refers to the bright bales in the strict middling box, and "middling, slightly dull" means equal to the dull bales in the middling box, etc. If the cotton is brighter than the strict middling standard, it is recommended that it be described separately for leaf and color, as, for example, "strict middling leaf, good middling color," or otherwise, as may be appropriate to the case. The same principle holds for the other descriptions mentioned.

6. If cotton is sold on description on some such terms as the following: Strict Middling seven-eighths inch to fifteen-sixteenths inch staple, what United States official staple types would be used in the event of arbitration? Would seven-eighths inch only satisfy the contract or would fifteen-sixteenths inch be required, or would it be the arbitrator's conception of something between these two—that is, something better than seven-eighths inch but not equal to fifteen-sixteenths inch—and, if so, would this be, say, twenty-nine-thirty-seconds inch or cotton better than seven-eighths inch but not necessarily of any definite length within the two limits, or would seven-eighths inch cotton go but would it require stronger staple than a sale for seven-eighths inch?

This is a question of contract terms rather than of the application of the cotton standards act. Our own practice is described in paragraph 2, section 3 of Regulation 3, regulations under the cotton standards act, which provides:

In the adjustment of disputes, or when otherwise necessary, the bureau shall observe the definitions of terms laid down in the rules and regulations of the exchange or other body under which the contract was made, except that when two grades are used to describe a single lot of cotton without reference to the proportions of each, unless a different meaning be evident from the language of the contract or the rules under which it was made, the description shall be construed to mean that no bale in the lot is

intended to be below the lower or above the higher grade of the description. The same principle shall be observed when two staple lengths \* \* \* are similarly employed in a single description.

A shipment all equal to the lowest of the two descriptions is thus regarded as a good delivery. The rule of the Joint Southern Arbitration Board we understand is similar. The boards of cotton examiners, as well as arbitration boards, would necessarily have to make their findings in the light of what appeared to be the true intent of the parties as evidenced by the contract itself and by the trade rules, if any, referred to therein, but in the absence of a specific indication in the contract of the intent of the parties, either direct or by reference, an arbitration committee abroad could presumably make its own interpretation of the contract and settle the question accordingly.

If it is desired to have the practice of the trade made uniform on this point, it would seem to us that the question is one which might well be taken up by the shippers or by their organizations with the associations in Europe.

The questions proposed in your letter have necessitated certain rather involved considerations. I hope that our comment in reply will be found to be clear. We shall be glad to be of such further assistance in this matter as may be possible and desired.

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR W. PALMER,  
*In Charge, Division of Cotton Marketing.*

**3. DESCRIPTIONS "GOOD BODY AND STAPLE," "GOOD COLOR AND STAPLE," "GOOD STAPLE"—LEGALITY OF**

JULY 13, 1928.

DEAR MR. ———: \* \* \* The questions asked in your second paragraph relative to the Liverpool description "good body and staple," and similar questions raised by other members of the trade, have now had consideration in the office of our solicitor.

In the United States, under authority of the cotton standards act, the Secretary of Agriculture has established standards for grade and color and for length of staple. When cotton is described in interstate or foreign commerce according to any standards or system of classification the use of these standards is made mandatory by section 2 of the act, which reads as follows:

SEC. 2. That it shall be unlawful (a) in or in connection with any transaction or shipment in commerce made after this act shall become effective, or (b) in any publication of a price or quotation determined in or in connection with any transaction or shipment in commerce after this act shall become effective, or (c) in any classification for the purposes of or in connection with a transaction or shipment in commerce after this act shall become effective, for any person to indicate for any cotton a grade or other class which is of or within the official cotton standards of the United States then in effect under this act by a name, description, or designation, or any system of names, description, or designation not used in said standards: *Provided*, That nothing herein shall prevent a transaction otherwise lawful by actual sample or on the basis of a private type which is used in good faith and not in evasion of or substitution for said standards.

The description "good color and staple" would appear to apply both to color and staple, for which, as above indicated, standards have been separately established. If the term "good color" designates a color which is "of or within the official cotton standards of the United States," its use, therefore, presumably must be regarded as unlawful. It may also be observed, with respect to grade and color, that all the principal European cotton associations have adopted the universal standards for grade and color and in agreements with this department have provided as follows:

The associations agree to make the said universal standards the basis of all their contracts in which grades are specified for the purchase and sale of American cotton.

With respect to "good staple" the same test of legality would apply. If, as appears from evidence at hand, the length described as "good staple" falls within the range of lengths for which standards are established and is a part of a system of classification inconsistent with the official cotton standards of the United States, the use of that term to describe length of staple would seem to be clearly unlawful.

There would appear to be no objection if the term "good staple" were used only to describe the character of the staple as distinguished from its length or in connection with a description for length which in itself is lawful, as, for example, "Middling  $\frac{7}{8}$ , good staple." We do not understand, however, that this is the usual practice.

Very truly yours,

A. W. PALMER,  
*In Charge, Division of Cotton Marketing.*



## 4. STAPLE STANDARD DESCRIPTIONS—USE OF RULE VERSUS OFFICIAL STAPLE TYPES

JULY 13, 1928.

DEAR MR. ———: Your letter of July 3 has been received. In it we note your statement of a certain proposal to purchase cotton described, for instance, as "Good Middling, inch" with the understanding that in case of an arbitration for staple the cotton would be pulled and applied to the ruler "instead of comparing it with the 1929 inch type." Your inquiry concerning the propriety of such procedure is also noted.

The orders of the Secretary of Agriculture establishing the official cotton standards of the United States define the length of staple of any cotton as the normal length, by measurement, of a typical portion of its fiber under certain standard conditions of temperature and humidity. Actual measurement, therefore, is the basis on which the standards in the abstract have been set up. It is a matter of common knowledge, however, that the measured length of staple of any cotton will vary with varying conditions of heat and moisture. For this reason it is necessary in fixing standards to specify a certain definite temperature and humidity at which the measurement is to be taken.

In ordinary commercial practice, however, it happens that the conditions of temperature and humidity surrounding any particular cotton to be stapled frequently do not coincide with the conditions prescribed. Moreover, in any sample of cotton there will be found fibers of other than the standard length in various proportions. In order, therefore, to give practical effect to the standards as above defined under all atmospheric conditions and to guide the classifier in his judgment of how to apply them, it was ordered simultaneously that "practical forms" (types) of those of the standards for length commonly used should be provided and made available for distribution. The practical forms are prepared with great care and, when properly pulled and measured in the standard temperature and humidity, yield a staple which measures the standard length. If the practical form and the cotton in question are both properly conditioned the effect of variations of atmospheric temperature and moisture is eliminated, since both type and cotton are affected by the same conditions.

The standards are applied by "pulling" the practical form (type) until a normal "pull" is obtained. The cotton in question should then be stapled in the same way. If when so stapled its length is the same as that of the practical form, it is equal to the standard; if less, it is not equal; and if greater, it is longer than the standard length. In transactions calling for lengths of staple for which no practical forms (types) are supplied by the department, the proper method of determining whether or not any cotton meets contract requirements as to length is to compare it with official staple types for the nearest lengths above and below that specified in the contract.

It must be apparent, in view of the variation of atmospheric conditions and of the classifier's need for a guide to his judgment, that any attempt to adjudge the staple length of cotton without the use of practical forms (types) would be inconclusive.

With respect to the 1929 series of practical forms, it should perhaps be observed that these forms are only permissive at this time. Unless and until some understanding is reached with foreign associations to the effect that in sales to their markets the use of the 1929 series is understood, shippers who wish to ship on the 1929 series should definitely specify them. Otherwise, the series now in effect must be understood.

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR W. PALMER,  
*In Charge, Division of Cotton Marketing.*

## 5. "GOOD COLOR AND STAPLE"

JULY 14, 1928.

MR. NILS A. OLSEN,  
*Acting Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.*

DEAR MR. OLSEN: Your memorandum of July 12 is received, transmitting a letter of June 30 last from Mr. ——— and other correspondence with reference to the use of the term "good color and staple" in sales of cotton to Liverpool. I have given consideration to the legality of its use in view of the provisions of the United States cotton standards act.

It appears from Mr. ———'s letter that it is difficult to express in words just what is meant by the term. The real test, he says, is what the mills will accept for making common weft yarn. His idea of the length required is that it is

about seven-eighths inch. The millers are more particular about soundness of character, he states, and there are many characters of cotton which, if about seven-eighths of an inch in length, will satisfy them.

Under authority of the United States cotton standards act, official standards for grade and color and for length of staple have been established by the Secretary of Agriculture. The act makes unlawful the use of any other method of indicating the grade or class of cotton for interstate or foreign shipment. The pertinent portion of the act reads:

SEC. 2. That it shall be unlawful (a) in or in connection with any transaction or shipment in commerce made after this act shall become effective, or (b) in any publication of a price or quotation determined in or in connection with any transaction or shipment in commerce after this act shall become effective, or (c) in any classification for the purposes of or in connection with a transaction or shipment in commerce after this act shall become effective, for any person to indicate for any cotton a grade or other class which is of or within the official cotton standards of the United States then in effect under this act by a name, description, or designation, or any system of names, description, or designation not used in said standards: *Provided*, That nothing herein shall prevent a transaction otherwise lawful by actual sample or on the basis of a private type which is used in good faith and not in evasion of or substitution for said standards.

The description "good color and staple" would appear to apply both to color and staple, for which, as above indicated, standards have been separately established. If "good color" is used to designate a color which is within the official standards, it is clearly unlawful. As standards have also been established for length of staple and the term is used to indicate a length included within the standards, the same objection would seem to apply to the use of the term "good color and staple" to indicate the staple desired. In this connection it should be observed that with respect to grade and color all the principal European cotton associations have adopted the universal standards for grade and color and in agreements with this department have provided as follows:

The associations agree to make the said universal standards the basis of all their contracts in which grades are specified for the purchase and sale of American cotton.

In view of the foregoing, it is my opinion that the use of the term mentioned is contrary to the United States cotton standards act.

Very truly yours,

R. W. WILLIAMS, *Solicitor*.

#### 6. ANTEDATING CONTRACTS TO AVOID COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION ON USE OF MILLIMETER DESCRIPTIONS WOULD BE REGARDED AS AN EVASION OF LAW

Mr. ———,  
*Secretary ——— Association, ———.*

DEAR MR. ———; There has recently been an unconfirmed report that export contracts employing millimeter descriptions were being made to antedate the issuance on June 15 of the opinion of the department's solicitor on the legality of such descriptions.

While the solicitor has suggested that, in view of his previous opinion and of other circumstances, parties to contracts unfilled on June 15 should be permitted to complete them, a clear distinction should be made between contracts actually existing on that date and contracts entered into after that date. It is quite certain that in the case of contracts entered into after the publication of the opinion, the practice of antedating for the purpose of making use of descriptions now held to be illegal would be regarded as an evasion. From the standpoint of legal administration such a practice is, of course, inadmissible, while from the standpoint of shippers its indulgence would result obviously in inequities to individuals and firms complying with the law.

In view of the resolutions of various shippers' associations pledging support of the administration of the cotton standards act, it is thought that this further observation may be of interest to your members.

Yours very truly,

NILS A. OLSEN,  
*Acting Chief of Bureau.*

#### ACT RELATING TO INVESTIGATION OF NEW USES OF COTTON

(Approved April 12, 1928, 45 Stat. L. 426)

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.* That the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce are hereby authorized to engage in technical



and scientific research in American-grown cotton and its by-products, and their present and potential uses, including new and additional commercial and scientific uses for cotton and its by-products, and to diffuse such information among the people of the United States; and the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce or their duly authorized representatives may cooperate with any department or agency of the Government, any State, Territory, District, or possession, or department, agency, or political subdivision thereof, or any person in carrying out the purposes of this act in the District of Columbia and elsewhere.

**EXCERPT FROM THE ACT APPROVED FEBRUARY 16, 1929, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1930, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

(Public No. 769, 70th Cong.)

**ENFORCEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES COTTON FUTURES ACT AND UNITED STATES COTTON STANDARDS ACT**

To enable the Secretary of Agriculture to carry into effect the provisions of the United States cotton futures act, as amended March 4, 1919 (U. S. C., pp. 788-791, secs. 731-752), and to carry into effect the provisions of the United States cotton standards act, approved March 4, 1923 (U. S. C., pp. 90, 91, secs. 51-65), including all expenses necessary for the purchase of equipment and supplies; for travel; for the employment of persons in the city of Washington and elsewhere; and for all other expenses, including rent outside of the District of Columbia, that may be necessary in executing the provisions of these acts, including such means as may be necessary for effectuating agreements heretofore or hereafter made with cotton associations, cotton exchanges, and other cotton organizations in foreign countries, for the adoption, use, and observance of universal standards of cotton classification, for the arbitration or settlement of disputes with respect thereto, and for the preparation, distribution, inspection, and protection of the practical forms or copies thereof under such agreements, \* \* \*.

